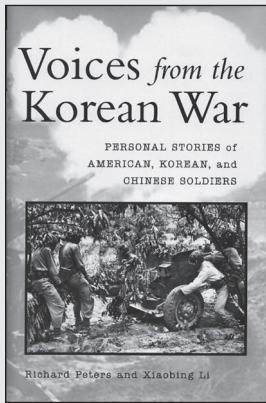


Book Reviews



Voices from the Korean War: Personal Stories of American, Korean, and Chinese Soldiers, by Richard A. Peters and Xiaobing Li, University Press of Kentucky: Lexington, November 2004, 288 pages, ISBN: 0813122937, \$35 (hardcover).

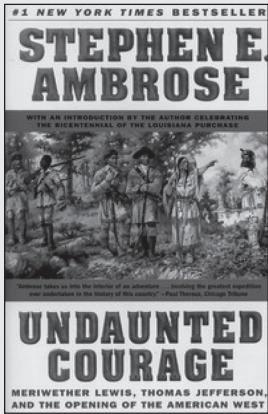
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Most books we Americans read on the “Forgotten War” are written from the American perspective. There are a couple from South Korean authors, such as *From Pusan to Panmunjom* by General Paik Sun Yup, but Peters and Li provide an opportunity to see the Korean War from the North Korean and Chinese perspectives.

This book offers firsthand accounts of the suffering of the Chinese forces during their engagements with United States Marines from the “Frozen Chosin” to the harbor city of Hungnam. *Voices* covers the suffering of the civilians and the Soldiers’ families, as well as the Soldiers. The book provides insights on the Koje-Do prison riots, reported by both a guard and an organizer within the camps. They believed that the Americans were naïve, which made it easy for the North Korean and Chinese to run the camps, and that many lives on both sides were lost inside the camps due to that naiveté.

Voices from the Korean War also covers a number of campaigns. At times, the stories you are hearing could just as well be from an American, a South Korean, or any of the United Nations service members. This book creates a vivid and multidimensional portrait of the three-year-long conflict told by those who experienced the ground war firsthand.

As Paul Harvey would say, *Voices from the Korean War* tells you “the rest of the story,” a story few Americans have heard.



Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West, by Stephen E. Ambrose, Simon & Schuster: New York, 1997, 528 pages, ISBN: 068426976, \$30 (hardcover).

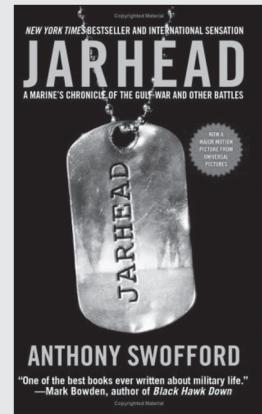
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Most Americans think they know the story of Lewis and Clark's expedition with their crew, which they called the "Corps of Discovery." Once you read *Undaunted Courage*, you will really know that story, as well as the story of Meriwether Lewis. The book gets off to a somewhat slow start, because many pages describe the preparations and supplies obtained for the adventure. But imagine packing for a trip where you don't know the route, the length of the trip, or how long it will take to complete. (In comparison, we knew more before we sent a man to the moon.) But once all the preparations are completed, the story begins to move us west, to the start of the expedition in Missouri.

Ambrose makes you feel as if you are a member of the expedition. He introduces you to William Clark and the other members of the Corps of Discovery. You learn of the daily drudgery of the crew as they pull the boats up the Missouri River past many landmarks, many of which are now cities. In addition to having no maps, they had to deal with things such as hostile Indian tribes, constant hunger, wild animals, insect infestation, and bitter weather. This was a true adventure into the unknown. On the expedition, Lewis proves himself to be a first-rate mapmaker and nature writer, with his descriptions of the flora, fauna, and physical beauty of the American Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, and Pacific Northwest.

This was the first real interaction of the United States with the great Native American tribes of the plains and beyond. Again Lewis proves himself to be a first-rate leader and a diplomat with the Native American tribes. Most meetings were peaceful and educational. The Corps of Discovery learned that the different tribes were like different nations and had to be so treated.

Once you have completed this book, you hardly realize you were reading history. It is a very exciting and well-written piece of nonfiction.



Jarhead: A Marine's Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles, by Anthony Swofford, Scribner: New York, March 2003, 260 pages, ISBN: 0743235355, \$24 (hardcover).

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This book, from the perspective of a young Marine, is written by a young Marine combat veteran. Swofford takes you through Boot Camp, his first assignment, the build-up for war, life on the battlefield as a sniper, and back to civilian life. *Jarhead* describes the physical and mental stresses associated with the profession—the good times as well as the bad.

As I read *Jarhead*, I had a hard time believing all the crazy, vulgar, and disturbing things that happened. I thought about putting the book down, but couldn't. Then it dawned on me that a large part of this story is how young men deal with the stresses of growing up. Then add the fact that they are going to war and their lingering doubts from that experience. Today, as in the past, it is during the waiting that Soldiers are made.

This book provides a portrait of the brutality and loneliness of today's sophisticated, yet horrendous, battlefield. It reminds Soldiers that they are not the first to experience the doubts, the what-ifs, and the could-have-beens. They learn that it is their buddies who help keep them alive on the battlefield and off, and it is their buddies who help them get back home. *Jarhead* may help Soldiers come to terms with their experiences.

Many military members have a love/hate relationship about their service, and that is how I feel about *Jarhead*.



These three book reviews are provided by Mr. Jeffrey L. Rosemann, an instructional systems specialist with the Officers Education Branch, Department of Training Development, United States Army Engineer School. A retired infantry Soldier, he also served as the 2d Infantry Division historian during the beginning of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.